Plants not producing LPG cylinders

630. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the LPG cylinder plants which are not producing LPG cylinder state-wise;

(b) the reasons for non-production of LPG cylinders;

(c) the details of the measures taken to reopen these units; and

(d) the results achieved from those measures so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The details of LPG cylinder units which are not producing LPG cylinders now, after commencement of production are as follows:

Name of the cylinder manufacturer	State
1. Standard Cylinders (P) Ltd.	Haryana
2. Associated Chemicals and Mechanical Engg (P.) Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
3. U.P. Cylinders and Containers (P) Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh
4. Bilva Pressure Vessels (P) Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
5. SOL Engineers Pvt. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
6. MIDCO Containers Ltd.	Gujarat

(b) to (d) Same internal problems seem responsible for non-production by these units and the units themselves have to attend to these.

Power plant in Assam

631. SHRI NEPALDEV BATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact on the eve of the Assam elections the Union Government had announced the setting up a power plant in that State with Japanese collaboration;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said project;

(c) by when the setting up of the plant would start and by when it start generating power for the State; and

(d) the amount sanctioned for this purpose by the Planning Commission and when it was decided and the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) On the conclusion of the Prime Ministers' visit to Japan in November 1985 a press statement was issued in Tokyo regardnig a package of economic assistance to be extend by Japan to India. This include Yen credit for the proposed 280 MW gas basen combined cycle power station at Kathalguri in Assam and the associated transmission lines. It is estimated that, after an invest decision has been taken, the power station will start generating power within two years. The provisioning of funds will be decided in Annual Plans.

Pay scales for subordinate judges

632. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any proposal from the Chief Justice of India recommending better pay scales for subordinate judges; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No separate reference recommending better pay scales for subordinate judges has been received from the Chief Justice of India. However, the matter relating to improvement in the salaries and emoluments and other conditions of service of the subordinate judiciary was discussed in the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August and 1st September, 1985 at New Delhi. The conference was of the view that the salaries and emoluments of the subordinate judiciary at all levels and their conditions of service need considerable improvement, including the residential accommodation, both during their term of office and also after their retirement, as also provision of staff cars and other means of transport. The subordinate judiciary is the subject matter of the State Governments and as such their appointments and improvement in the service conditions are primarily the concern of the State Governments. The proposals made by the Conference of Chief Justices and discussed in the Joint Conference have been forwarded to the State Governments alongwith the recommendations of the Joint Conference for taking appropriate action.

Three-Member Election Commission

633. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to constitute a three-member Election Commission for the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Suggestions, however, are being received from time to time from political parties and political analysts in the context of discussions on electoral reforms that the Election Commission should be a three-member body. Government have taken note of this suggestion and would finalise decisions on electoral reforms after holding consultations with the political parties.

Manufacture of small and cheap tractors

634. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to manufacture small and low cost tractors that are most useful to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the same is likely to be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Full flexibility has been granted to existing manufacturers to diversify their product range to include tractors, power tillers and agriculture machinery of various sizes. In addition, excise exemption has been given to tractors upto 25 DBHP for benefit of small farmers.